

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

BRAKE AWAY



Driver James Sikes talks about his experiences in his Toyota Prius during a news conference held at Toyota of El Cajon Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in El Cajon, Calif. Sikes' 2008 Toyota Prius raced out of control on a San Diego freeway Monday.

Read more on Page A5

SPORTS NEWS

COURAGE AWARD



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick walks into the banquet Hall at the Ed Block courage award Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in Baltimore.

Read more on Page 15

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U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, left, shakes hand with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Biden said there is a "moment of opportunity" for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Associated Press

Biden condemns new Israeli settlement plan

ARON HELLER

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP)— Vice President Joe Biden condemned an Israeli plan to build hundreds of homes in disputed east Jerusalem on Tuesday — a disagreement that tarnished a high-profile visit that had been aimed at repairing ties with the Jewish state and kickstarting Mideast peace talks.

Israel's Interior Ministry said late Tuesday that it had approved construction of 1,600 new apartments, an embarrassing setback for Biden after a day of warm meetings with top Israeli officials. Although ministry officials said the announcement was procedural and unconnected to the visit, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was

blindsided and tried to contain the damage at a late-night dinner with Biden.

Nonetheless, Biden issued a harshly worded statement after the dinner, saying its timing was especially troubling by coming on the eve of a new round of U.S.-mediated peace talks.

"The substance and timing of the announcement, particularly with the launching of proximity talks, is precisely the kind of step that undermines the trust we need right now," Biden said.

"We must build an atmosphere to support negotiations, not complicate them," he added, warning that "unilateral action taken by either party cannot prejudice the outcome of negotiations."

Continued on Page 6

AP Poll:

Americans want elusive accord on health

CHARLES BABINGTON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Americans and their lawmakers are dramatically out of sync on health care, with large majorities of people looking for bipartisan cooperation that is nowhere in sight.

A new Associated Press-GfK Poll finds a widespread hunger for improvements to the health care system, which suggests President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies have a political opening to push their plan. Half of all Americans say health care should be changed a lot or "a great deal," and only 4 percent say it shouldn't be changed at all.

But they do not like the way the debate is playing out in Washington, where Republican lawmakers unanimously oppose the Obama-backed legislation and Democrats are struggling to pass it by themselves with narrow House and Senate majorities. More than four in five Americans say it is important that any health care plan have support from both parties. And 68 percent say the president and congressional Democrats should keep trying to cut a deal with Republicans rather than pass a bill with no Republican support.

Leaders of both parties in Congress say that is not how it is going to work out.

Continued on Page 4

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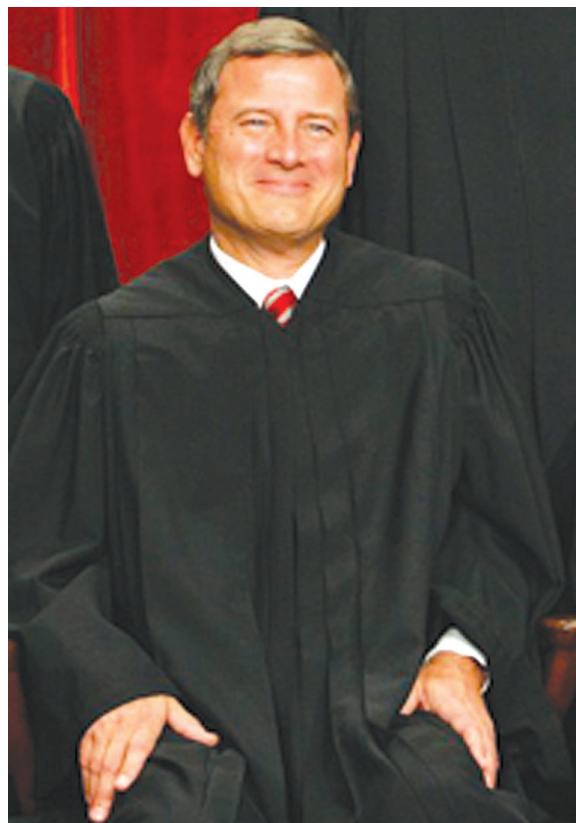
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Chief Justice Roberts calls State of Union scene 'troubling'



In this Sept. 29, 2009, file photo, Chief Justice John Roberts sits for a new group photograph with other Supreme Court judges at the Supreme Court in Washington.

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press Writer

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts said Tuesday the scene at President Obama's State of the Union address was "very troubling" and the annual speech has "degenerated to a political pep rally."

Obama chided the court, with the justices seated before him in their black robes, for its decision on a campaign finance case.

Responding to a University of Alabama law student's question, Roberts said anyone was free to criticize the court, and some have an obligation to do so because of their positions.

"So I have no problems with that," he said. "On the other hand, there is the issue of the setting, the circumstances and the decorum."

"The image of having the members of one branch of government standing up, literally surrounding the Supreme Court, cheering and hollering while the court — according to the requirements of protocol — has to sit there expressionless, I think is very

troubling."

Breaking from tradition, Obama criticized the court's decision that allows corporations and unions to freely spend money to run political ads for or against specific candidates.

"With all due deference to the separation of powers the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests — including foreign corporations — to spend without limit in our elections," Obama said in January.

Justice Samuel Alito was the only justice to respond at the time, shaking his head and mouthing the words "not true" as Obama continued. Roberts told the students he wonders whether justices should attend the speeches.

"I'm not sure why we're there," said Roberts, a Republican nominee who joined the court in 2005.

Justice Antonin Scalia once said he no longer goes to the annual speech because the justices "sit there like bumps on a log" in an otherwise highly partisan atmosphere. Six of

the nine justices attended Obama's address.

Roberts opened his appearance in Alabama with a 30-minute lecture on the history of the Supreme Court and became animated as he answered students' questions. He joked about a recent rumor that he was stepping down from the court and said he didn't know he wanted to be a lawyer until he was in law school.

Asked about the Senate's method of confirming new justices, Roberts said senators improperly try to make political points by asking questions they know nominees can't answer because of the limitations of judicial ethic rules.

"I think the process is broken down," said Roberts.

While Associate Justice Clarence Thomas told students at Alabama last fall he saw little value in oral arguments before the court, Roberts disagreed.

"Maybe it's because I participated in it a lot as a lawyer," Roberts said. "I'd hate to think it didn't matter." □



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Workers urge faster rebuilding at ground zero site

By SAMANTHA GROSS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Hundreds of construction workers raised a rallying cry of “Build it now!” on Tuesday, gathering with elected officials at the World Trade Center site to urge a quick rebuilding of the complex.

“Instead of a shining American symbol of resilience and strength, we have a hole in the ground,” U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney told the crowd. “Rebuilding the towers and ground zero is a moral imperative. Putting 10,000 people to work in the middle of a severe recession is an economic imperative.”

The protest comes days before a Friday deadline for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and developer Larry Silverstein to work out a new schedule for rebuilding parts of the site. Construction is under way on 1 World Trade Center, a memorial and a transit hub, but the building of other planned towers has stalled in a dispute over financing.

The authority, which controls the property, wants more private-sector cash for the project than Silverstein has

offered and says it’s better to delay construction on two of the towers until the real estate market improves.

But with union officials saying 15 to 20 percent of their construction workers are jobless, the hardhat-wearing protesters said they were eager for more work at the site as soon as possible.

“We have people out for 40 weeks before they get a job,” said electrician Greg Kapps. “There are a lot of people out.”

One protester’s sign read: “Don’t Forget 9/11: Delay Means Defeat.”

U.S. Reps. Anthony Weiner, Peter King, Gregory Meeks, Joseph Crowley and Michael McMahon joined in the rally, as did several city officials. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn yelled to the protesters: “It should have been built already. It is a disgrace.”

Port Authority Executive Director Chris Ward defended the work already in progress Tuesday, saying that much construction is happening and the authority’s rebuilding of the memorial, 1 World Trade Center and public areas has put 1,900 people to work.

The agency expects to spend almost \$11 billion in the area, he said.

“It’s not because of the Port Authority that there hasn’t been building,” he said. “The Port Authority is not willing to do a public bailout of Larry Silverstein.”

“Mr. Silverstein has to get some real money, get some real tenants,” Ward said. “That’s why you build buildings. You don’t build empty buildings as monuments.”

Silverstein declined to comment through a spokesman, but Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has supported the developer, said the Port Authority was blocking Silverstein’s efforts to resolve the conflict.

“The Port Authority’s not bailing out Silverstein. We have to bail out America. That’s an outrageous statement,” he said.

Silverstein was supposed to build three office towers at the site but has said the economic downturn and tight credit market had made it impossible for him to secure independent financing.

The authority wants Silverstein to build one tower immediately,



Laborers hoping to help rebuild the World Trade Center site hold a rally to urge for quicker action on the project, Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

then build a second in a few years once he has found a tenant for the building. The space reserved for a third tower would become a public space for an indefinite period,

until market demand returns, Ward said.

An analysis done for the Port Authority last year projected that might not be until 2030□

Ohio State janitor's gunfire kills co-worker, self

By MATT LEINGANG

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio State University janitor who was about to lose his job walked into a maintenance building for his early morning shift Tuesday and shot two supervisors, killing one of them and fatally shooting himself. No students were hurt.

Nathaniel Brown, 51, arrived for work at the nation’s largest university dressed in dark clothing, a hooded sweat shirt and a backpack. He then opened fire in an office suite using two handguns, campus Police Chief Paul Denton said.

Brown spent five years in prison in the 1970s and ‘80s for receiving stolen property but lied about it on his job application, records show. It wasn’t immediately clear whether Ohio State had done a background check on him.

Ohio State released documents from Brown’s personnel file showing that supervisors complained he was tardy, slept on the job and had problems following instructions. The university sent him a letter March 2 informing him that his employment was to end Saturday. About a half-dozen other employees were in the building when the shooting began, Denton said. He described the shooting as work-related but didn’t describe a motive.

The shooting was reported at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Police tactical units surrounded the building and found Brown with a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a garage bay, Denton said. He was pronounced dead at a campus hospital several hours later.

Brown had been scheduled to work his normal third shift, Denton said.

One of the victims, building services manager Larry Wallington, 48, died at the scene. The other, operations shift leader Henry Butler, 60, was in stable condition at Ohio State University Medical Center, officials said.

Butler wrote a letter Feb. 11 recommending that Brown be terminated, according records released by the university. Even though colleagues had made a special effort to help Brown, he was not improving, the letter said. Denton declined to say whether other employees were targeted. Police also didn’t describe the contents of Brown’s backpack.

The other employees in the building at the time have been offered grief counseling, Denton said. “This is a tragic event, and our hearts go out to all of the families,” said Vernon Baisden, assistant vice president for public safety.

Police released two 911 calls. In one, a caller tells the dispatcher that he pulled into the garage and heard gunshots. He identifies Brown as the shooter and says Brown was in the process of being fired.□

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AP-GfK POLL

Most favor bipartisan health care bill

Most Americans say that President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats should enact health care reform legislation this year only if it includes Republican support.

Q: If President Obama and the Democrats in Congress are unable to win support from Republicans to pass a health care plan this year, what should they do?

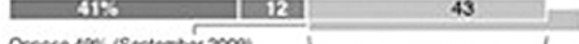
Go ahead and pass a bill without Republican support Keep trying until they are able to make a deal with the Republicans



Keep trying 66% (September 2009)

Q: Do you support, oppose or neither support nor oppose the health care reform plans being discussed in Congress?

Support Neither support nor oppose Oppose

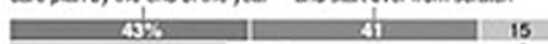


Oppose 49% (September 2009)

Within this group 80 percent said they strongly oppose reform

Q: What do think the President and Congress should do about health care this year?

Keep working to pass a health care plan by the end of the year Scrap the current negotiations and start over from scratch



Keep working 39% (September 2009)

Leave the health care system as it is now

AP

Graphic shows poll results on public opinion about health care

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APPOLL: AMERICAN

Continued from Front Page

After a year of off-and-on negotiations, Republicans adamantly oppose Obama's plans. The White House and Democratic leaders say it is now-or-never for a health care overhaul, which would cover an additional 30 million Americans, require almost everyone to buy health insurance and impose new restrictions on insurance companies.

The United States is the only major industrialized nation that does not have universal health care.

The Democrats' plan relies on parliamentary rules that bar Senate procedural delays. That would enable Senate Democrats to pass a companion health care bill — which House Democrats are demanding — with a simple majority. Democrats control 59 of the Senate's 100 votes, one shy of the number needed to stop Republican delaying tactics.

The new poll underscores Obama's struggles to wrest control of the health care debate from Republicans, who couch his efforts as a government takeover and costly intrusion into private

lives.

Many of his allies are baffled, because Americans clearly want change, and some of the individual components of the Democrats' health care agenda seem popular. Moreover, the public has not embraced the Republicans' overall approach to legislating, giving lower approval ratings to GOP lawmakers than to Democrats, although both parties fare badly.

In the AP-GfK Poll, 43 percent of those surveyed said Obama and Congress should keep working to pass health care this year, while 41 percent said they should start from scratch. In Congress, the Republicans favor that new-start approach; Democrats say that is just a way to stall the effort to death.

Sandy Stemm would seem the ideal target for Obama's appeal. She is a Democrat and former bakery manager who recently lost her job and health insurance.

But Stemm, 47, does not like the idea of congressional Democrats going it alone on health care.

"I think it's important to come to an agreement," she said in a telephone interview. "We're all in this together, whether we're

Democrat or Republican."

John DeHority, a Democrat, supports Obama's effort and thinks Republicans have "made a travesty of the process." But he suggested the Republicans are winning the political battle.

"I think passing the bill in its current form would be political suicide for Democrats," said DeHority, 56, a researcher in health care imaging. He said he thinks the proposed changes would fail because they would not control costs, and "Democrats will take the fall for that."

Obama's own message, sometimes shifting, seems unpersuasive to many.

Over the past year, he has moved his emphasis from the moral implications of improving health care to the cost-cutting possibilities to the impact on the deficit. In a fiery speech near Philadelphia on Monday, he renewed his harsh attacks on insurance companies, which he says are overcharging people and denying coverage to less-desirable clients.

The president heads to St. Louis on Wednesday to press his case for overhaul, even as major businesses launch a multimillion-dollar ad campaign to undercut the legislation. The result is a message mishmash that leaves many people unsure why they should support Obama's plans, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an authority on political communications at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg center.

"They didn't make those mistakes in the campaign," she said, calling Obama a master at staying on message as a candidate. "Communications scholars are shaking their heads," she said.

Presidential adviser David Axelrod told supporters on a conference call Tuesday that "what happens in the next 10 days will be critical." He asked them to talk to friends and neighbors to boost momentum.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted March 3-8, by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media. It involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,002 adults nationwide, and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points. □

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Aruba TODAY

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Feds to probe cause of runaway Prius in Calif.

ELLIOT SPAGAT,
Associated Press Writer
EL CAJON, California (AP) — The government sent investigators Tuesday to examine a Prius that sped out of control on a California freeway, and Toyota said it wanted to interview the driver as the besieged automaker dealt with a high-profile new headache that raised questions about the safety of its beloved hybrid.

A day after state troopers helped the car slow to a stop and its driver to emerge unharmed, Toyota could shed no new light on what might have gone wrong. The Prius is not part of Toyota's vast recall of gas pedals that can become stuck, but it is covered by an earlier recall of floor mats that can catch the accelerator.

The freeway incident happened at the worst possible time for Toyota — just hours after it invited reporters Monday to hear experts insist that electronic flaws could not cause cars to speed out of control under real driving conditions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent two investigators to examine the car, a government spokeswoman said. Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Brian Lyons said the automaker is sending three of its own technicians to investigate.

Another Toyota spokesman, John Hanson, said the company wanted to talk to the driver, James Sikes.

His car, a 2008 model, was covered by the floor mat recall, but the driver in Monday's incident said the pedal jammed and was not trapped under the mat.

Sikes told authorities he was driving on Interstate 8 outside San Diego when the accelerator became stuck. He said the car reached 94 mph (151 mph) before a trooper, calling out instructions from a megaphone, helped him slow down and turn off the engine. Sikes' wife, Patty, said

Tuesday the family's Prius appeared to have a brief accelerator malfunction a few weeks ago.

"It took off for a second, and then it just stopped. It was like a little hiccup or something,"

she said.

James Sikes, 61, was identified in a 2006 newspaper story as a real estate executive and longtime lottery player who won \$55,000 and was selected to appear on a California Lottery TV game show. □



Driver James Sikes talks about his experiences in his Toyota Prius during a news conference held at Toyota of El Cajon Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in El Cajon, Calif. Sikes' 2008 Toyota Prius raced out of control on a San Diego freeway Monday. A California Highway Patrol officer helped him stop the car.

Associated Press

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U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, left, shakes hands with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during joint press statements at Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem, Tuesday, March 9, 2010. The U.S. is pleased with the resumption of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians and will back those willing to "take risks for peace," Biden said Tuesday during the highest-level visit to Israel by an Obama administration official.

Associated Press

ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

Continued from Front Page

Relations between Israel and the Obama administration have been chilly precisely because of the settlement issue, and one of Biden's main goals had been to try to patch up ties. Biden is the highest-level member of the Obama administration to visit Israel. The U.S., like the Palestinians and the rest of the international community, believes that Israeli settlements built on lands claimed by the Palestinians, including east Jerusalem, undermine peace prospects. President Barack Obama has been more outspoken on the issue than his predecessors.

Netanyahu has rebuffed calls from the White House to halt all settlement activity, agreeing only to a limited freeze that does not include east Jerusalem.

Israel captured both areas in the 1967 Mideast war and subsequently annexed east Jerusalem. Israel considers its east Jerusalem neighborhoods to be part of its undivided capital, but the annexation has never been internationally recognized and the neighborhoods are widely seen as settlements.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Efrat Orbach said the new homes would be built in Ramat Shlomo, an existing neighborhood for ultra-Orthodox Jews. She noted that there is a 60-day appeals period, indicating that the decision could yet be changed. At Tuesday's dinner, Netanyahu told Biden he was caught off guard by the ministry's announcement, a top Israeli official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the dinner was closed.

While Netanyahu considers east Jerusalem to be part of Israel, he acknowledged the timing of the announcement was poor and said he had no intention of sabotaging Biden's visit. He stressed that there are no plans to begin construction anytime soon. But Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the move soured the negotiating climate. The two sides agreed this week to begin indirect negotiations under the mediation of U.S. envoy George Mitchell. Peace efforts have been stalled for 14 months, in large part because of Palestinian anger over settlement activity.

"With such an announcement, how can you build trust? This is destroying our efforts to work with Mr. Mitchell," Erekat said. "It's a really disastrous situation. I hope that this will be an eye-opener for all in the international community."

Interior Minister Eli Yishai's office issued a statement saying Tuesday's decision was a procedural step in a project that has been in the works for three years. "The timing ... has no connection to the U.S. vice president's visit to Israel," it said. Biden was scheduled to remain in the area for two

more days, meeting with international Mideast envoy Tony Blair and Palestinian leaders in the West Bank on Wednesday before delivering a policy speech at Tel Aviv University on Thursday.

Biden had spent the day trying to calm Israeli concerns that Obama has been less friendly to the country than past U.S. leaders.

Earlier in the day, Biden assured Israelis they can count on strong U.S. backing as peace efforts finally resume. The resumption of talks, albeit indirect, is the first concrete achievement for Obama in the Israeli-Palestinian arena.

The relationship between the two allies, Biden told reporters as he stood beside Netanyahu, has always been a "centerpiece of American policy." "Progress occurs in the Middle East when everyone knows there is simply no space between the United States and Israel," Biden said.

"The United States will always stand with those who take risks for peace," Biden said, telling Netanyahu, "you're prepared to do that."

Obama began his term with a push for Mideast peace, prodding Israel to freeze its construction of West Bank settlements that swallow up land the Palestinians want for a future state.

The insistence on a total settlement freeze is seen by many in the region to have backfired. Polls show that Israelis have largely come to see Obama as overly sympathetic to Israel's enemies, making it difficult for the administration to get Israeli public opinion behind any difficult peace moves.

Biden offered assurances that the U.S. remained committed to Israel's security. Iran appeared to loom large in Biden's discussions with Netanyahu. "We are determined to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons," he said.

Israel has been pushing for stricter international sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear program, and has refused to rule out a military strike if sanctions fail.

A string of top U.S. officials in recent weeks have urged Israel to give more time for diplomatic pressure on Iran to work. □

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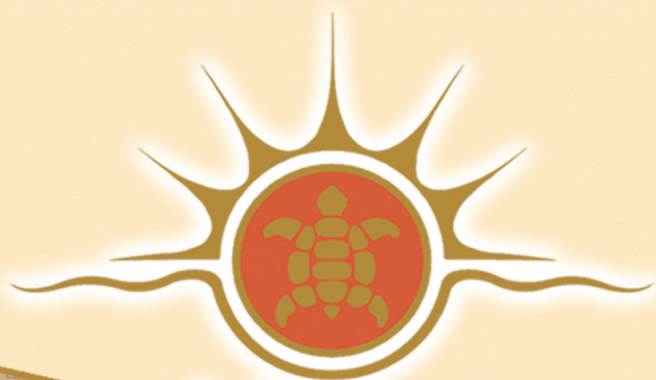


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Dozen centuries-old ship wrecks found in Baltic Sea

KARL RITTER

Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A dozen centuries-old shipwrecks — some of them unusually well-preserved — have been found in the Baltic Sea by a gas company building an underwater pipeline between Russia and Germany.

The oldest wreck probably dates back to medieval times and could be up to 800 years old, while the others are likely from the 17th to 19th centuries, Peter Norman of Sweden's National Heritage Board said Tuesday.

"They could be interesting, but we have only seen pictures of their exterior. Many of them are considered to be fully intact. They look very well-preserved," Norman told The Associated Press.

Thousands of wrecks — from medieval ships to warships sunk during the world wars of the 20th century — have been found in the Baltic Sea, which doesn't have the ship worm that destroys wooden wrecks in saltier oceans.

The latest discovery was made during a search of the seabed east of the Swedish island of Gotland by the Nord Stream consortium, which is building a 750-mile (1,200-kilometer) pipeline in the Baltic Sea.

The 12 wrecks were found in a 30-mile-long and 1.2-mile-wide (48-kilometer-long and 2



In this image released by Nord Stream on Tuesday March 9, 2010 shows the wheel of a 18th or 19th century sailing ship seen in the waters of the Baltic Sea.

Associated Press

kilometer-wide) corridor, Nord Stream spokeswoman Tora Leifland Holmstrom said.

The heritage board said three of the wrecks have intact hulls and are lying upside-down at a depth of 430 feet (130 meters). Swedish marine archaeology experts analyzed pictures of the wrecks and determined that they could be of a high historic value.

"The content can tell us a lot about everyday life during that time," Norman said.

It's unclear whether any of them will be salvaged but the board said it hopes they will be explored by divers — though Norman added many of them are at a depth that would require very advanced and costly diving

operations.

The Nord Stream consortium, which plans to start construction in April, has promised to make sure its activities don't damage the wrecks. The area where they were found is in Sweden's economic zone, but not in the planned route of the pipeline, Leifland Holmstrom said.

The Nord Stream project, in which Russia's OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake, has uncovered scores of other objects during seabed searches of the route, including about 80 sea mines and a washing machine, she said.

Last year, parts of a 300-year-old ship were salvaged from Germany's Bay of Greifswald to clear a path for the pipeline,

which expects to carry some 1.9 trillion cubic feet (55 billion cubic meters) of natural gas a year.

Sweden's most famous maritime discovery, the royal warship Vasa, is housed in a popular museum in Stockholm where

visitors can admire the ship's details, down to the flashing teeth of the carved lions that adorn its elaborate exterior. The Vasa was raised from the Stockholm harbor in 1961, 333 years after it sank on its maiden voyage. □

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Japan confirms Cold War-era 'secret' pacts

MALCOLM FOSTER

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has confirmed secret Cold War-era pacts with Washington that tacitly allowed nuclear warships in Japanese ports in violation of a hallowed postwar principle.

While the move Tuesday was welcomed as a step toward greater government transparency, atomic bomb survivors expressed disgust that officials kept such agreements hidden for dozens of years.

The revelations came after an investigation by a panel of experts appointed by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's government, which swept to power last fall on promises to bring more openness to government. His left-leaning party defeated the long-ruling conservatives who repeatedly denied the existence of such agreements.

The findings themselves aren't much of a shock because declassified U.S. documents have already confirmed such 1960s agreements, and a few former Japanese bureaucrats have spoken out about them in recent years.



Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, left, greets University of Tokyo Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka, leader of a Japanese government-appointed panel on the existence of once-secret Cold War-era pacts between Japan and the U.S. on nuclear arms and other issues, as Kitaoka submits a report to Okada at the ministry in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday, March 9, 2010. The panel confirmed the existence of the pacts, ending decades of official denial by Tokyo.

Associated Press

But in a nation where memories of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II drive a fierce aversion to nuclear weapons, Tokyo's admission about the secret agreements is a stunning reversal after years of denials from government

authorities. Sunao Tsuboi, who survived the Hiroshima bombing on Aug. 6, 1945, was outraged by the findings, saying they reflected the government's past hypocrisy. "While stressing that Japan is the only country attacked by atomic attacks, the government

was secretly allowing nuclear weapons inside the country," said Tsuboi, a co-chair of a nationwide organization for atomic bomb survivors. Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue called the government's past behavior deceitful. Even after American officials

acknowledged the pacts in the 1990s, leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party persistently denied them, up to and including Taro Aso, the last LDP prime minister before Hatoyama's Democratic Party of Japan took over.

The six-member panel of academics examined more than 4,000 files and documents surrounding four pacts, and confirmed three existed.

Most controversial was the finding that past governments had given tacit permission to U.S. nuclear-armed warships to make calls at Japanese ports — a violation of Japan's so-called three non-nuclear principles not to make, own or allow the entry of atomic weapons.

The panel, led by University of Tokyo professor Shinichi Kitaoka, said that while documents showed that Washington and Tokyo appeared to have differing interpretations about allowing nuclear-armed ships into Japanese waters, it was likely that Tokyo and Washington shared an unspoken understanding permitting them to make port calls in Japan without consent.

The panel also acknowledged that Tokyo and Washington had secret agreements allowing the U.S. to use military bases in Japan without prior consent in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula during the Korean War.

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada told a news conference the findings shouldn't have any impact on Tokyo's ties with Washington, which are currently strained over a dispute about the relocation of a Marine base on the southern island of Okinawa.

Under a security alliance with the U.S., some 47,000 American troops are stationed in Japan, and the U.S. protects the country under its nuclear umbrella.

The investigation, Okada said, was meant to restore public trust in Japan's diplomacy and government policies.

"It's regrettable that such facts were not disclosed to the public for such a long time, even after the end of the Cold War era," he said. □

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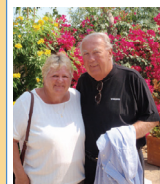
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Gates walks town that was a 'no-go zone' weeks ago

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan (AP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates, aiming to show progress in the expanded war against insurgents in south Afghanistan, took a brief, heavily guarded walk Tuesday down a rutted street in this scruffy market town where the Taliban lobbed mortars at U.S. forces only weeks ago.

Now Zad was the scene of the first significant military push following President Barack Obama's announcement in early December that he would add 30,000 troops atop 17,000 reinforcements he had already sent into the flagging war.

With the additional firepower, Marines moved into Now Zad last December and quickly pushed out Taliban fighters who had seized the town four years ago and forced every civilian to flee. Families that had lived in Now Zad for generations fled their houses with laundry still on the lines, said the top U.S. officer in the district, Marine Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson.

The current campaign in nearby Marjah and the coming fight in much larger Kandahar are patterned on Now Zad, including the effort to recruit support from tribal elders before the

fighting starts. As in Marjah, the United States is helping to install rudimentary local government in Now Zad, and U.S. forces are trying to train Afghan security forces to shoulder the load.

Now Zad actually tells a more significant story, Nicholson said.

"I am thrilled about Marjah, but I am more thrilled about Now Zad," Nicholson said. "This is the rebirth of a city that has been dead for four years." On his brief tour of Now Zad with Nicholson, Gates stopped to speak to shopkeepers who are among about 2,500 people who have returned to the city, once Helmand province's second-largest, with some 30,000 residents.

"A few months ago this place was a ghost town, a no-go zone," Gates told Marines at their small, heavily fortified outpost at the edge of town. "Now, as I saw for myself, stores are opening, people are returning."

Gates' walk, with armed guards in front of and behind him and soldiers dressed for battle posted all along his short route, also showed the limitations of the U.S. and NATO military campaign.

Gates acknowledged that the Taliban insurgency is entrenched in southern Afghanistan — where the movement was born and bred — and is unlikely to



U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, speaks with 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, troops at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Frontenac, 30 miles north of Kandahar, Afghanistan, Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Gates told a hard-hit battle unit Tuesday that its heavy losses have helped the U.S. begin to push back against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

Associated Press

recede completely under military pressure.

"In many respects, the Taliban are now part of the political fabric of Afghanistan," he said.

The street was nearly deserted as Gates walked. Only a handful of men stood or squatted outside the doors of the few shops along the main drag that appeared to be open. As is the custom in socially conservative

districts of Afghanistan, no women showed themselves to the visitors.

Nicholson said the place is usually busier, with 52 shops and a school now open, but that a "security bubble" was in place for Gates' visit.

Ironically, to demonstrate that the town is safe enough for Gates to visit, U.S. forces held at bay the very Afghan townspeople Marines fought to bring back.

Gates paused before sagging tables holding tomatoes and oranges. At his feet was a large shallow bowl of eggs, their shells speckled with mud. The shopkeeper told Gates he'd like to see more Marines in town.

"Because of the Marines we can walk anywhere," the man told Gates.

"More Marines, then more Afghan troops," Gates replied. □



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FILE - This Nov. 10, 2009 file photo shows Robert 'Joe' Halderman outside Manhattan criminal court following his court appearance in New York.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano, File)

By JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A television producer admitted Tuesday to trying to shake down David Letterman in a case that bared the late-night icon's affairs with staffers, avoiding a long prison sentence by pleading guilty in exchange for six months in jail and community service.

Producer admits to attempted Letterman shakedown

Robert "Joe" Halderman, 52, entered the plea in a Manhattan court to attempted grand larceny after being accused of demanding \$2 million to keep quiet about the late-night comic's workplace love life.

Halderman, a producer for CBS' "48 Hours Mystery," had mined information from reading his then-girlfriend's diary entries about her relationship with Letterman, her boss, authorities said.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said the debt-strapped Halderman threatened to ruin Letterman's reputation, disguising his demands as a deal for a thinly veiled screenplay about the comedian.

"In September of 2009, I attempted to extort \$2 million from David Letterman by threatening to disclose personal and private information about him, whether true or false," Halderman said in court, reading a prepared statement at

first so quickly that Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon asked him to slow down.

Halderman acknowledged delivering the threat to Letterman's driver, in the form of a screenplay outline, or "treatment."

"This so-called treatment was just a thinly veiled threat to ruin Mr. Letterman if he did not pay me a lot of money," Halderman said, dressed in a gray suit. He subsequently met with Letterman's lawyer, who eventually gave him a phony \$2 million check.

"I knew throughout this time that I was not engaged in a legitimate business transaction with Mr. Letterman and that what I was doing was against New York law," Halderman said, adding that he realized he had violated the privacy of Letterman and his family.

"I feel great remorse for what I have done," Halderman said, apologizing to Letterman, the

comic's family, and his own former girlfriend, Stephanie Birkett.

Outside court, Halderman repeated his apologies, declined any interviews and said no more. He remains free on bail until his sentencing, set for May 4. In addition to the jail sentence, he agreed to 1,000 hours of community service; he would have faced up to 15 years in prison if convicted at a trial.

Through his lawyers, Letterman thanked Manhattan prosecutors for pursuing the case.

"When they became involved in this case, I had complete faith that a just and appropriate result was inevitable," he said in a statement they read outside court.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. noted that Letterman had come to authorities knowing the case could push his private life into public view.

"Mr. Letterman is a public figure, but like all New Yorkers, he has a right to a certain degree of privacy in his public life," said Vance, who took over the case from predecessor Robert Morgenthau in January.

Halderman's lawyer, who had raised free-speech and other issues in his attempt to portray the producer's behavior as a business deal, said Halderman ultimately decided he needed to end the case.

"We had a novel defense here involving complicated legal issues. I was very excited about the defense," said the lawyer, Gerald Shargel. "But there would be a long road ahead of us, and considering the risks and the rewards and the need for Joe to put this behind him and get on with his life, those needs were paramount."

Letterman married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko last year. They began dating in 1986 and have a 6-year-old son. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stock investors ask: What's the next big thing?

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — A year after the stock market began its comeback from 12-year lows, investors are looking for the next big thing.

Stocks have lost some of the momentum that propelled the Dow Jones industrial average up 61.4 percent from its close of 6,547 on March 9, 2009. That's natural — bull markets tend to slow down as they head into their second year. But the lethargic pace of the economic recovery has also been a bit of a drag on stocks. And so investors are waiting for signs that the economy is ready to put up some solid, sustainable growth numbers. The most likely trigger: job growth. Investors need to see a Labor Department report that says employers are creating more jobs than they're cutting. Until then, investors are going to stay cautious. Analysts say the market is likely to move sideways or drift higher, as it's been doing over the past few weeks. Tuesday's trading fit the pattern of modest moves. The Dow rose nearly 12 points. The average is up 1.3 percent so far this year. But that doesn't mean the market isn't going to have its fitful moments. And it certainly has volatile industries that are expected to move the rest of the market. On Tuesday, the financial companies that led stocks higher in the past year again drove trading. Analysts said financial shares rallied as investors reacted to rumors that the government might

prohibit the trades known as short sales in stocks of companies it owns. The government has large stakes in Citigroup Inc., American International Group Inc. and mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac after bailing them out during the 2008 financial crisis.

The market began its ascent last March 10 after Citigroup Inc., the big bank most wounded by the credit crisis and recession, said it had turned a profit. Signs that the housing market was starting to turn around added to the momentum.

At the time, such news, which amounted to glimmers of hope, were enough for investors. With stock prices so much higher now, they want proof.

"A lot of the gains we already enjoyed have been in anticipation of economic progress which has not yet occurred," said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager at Federated Clover Investment Advisors.

Besides jobs, investors need to see more strength in the housing market. Traders have been tolerant of recent declines in home sales, but if those numbers don't pick up, the market is likely to become uneasy.

First-quarter earnings reports that will be issued next month need to show continued sales growth. Companies' results for the last three months of 2009 were better than expected. Now the market wants to know that demand, starting with consumers, is rising.

Adam Gould, senior portfolio manager at Direxion Funds in New

York, said he will be looking for at least two months of back-to-back gains in job growth and for the unemployment rate to fall below 9 percent to feel more comfortable about the pace of recovery. Unemployment stands at 9.7 percent. Even if the news improves, just holding the gains of the last year could be tough. Some of the market's big gains in past years were followed by slumps. In the first year of the 1982-87 bull market, the Standard & Poor's 500 index jumped 58 percent. In the second year, the index fell 14.4 percent. That doesn't mean that's what will happen this time. In 2003, the S&P 500 index rose 26.4 percent. Then, in 2004, it peaked early and fizzled, until a 10.7 percent surge late in the year lifted stocks. According to preliminary



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

calculations, the Dow on Tuesday rose 11.86, or 0.1 percent, to 10,564.38. The Dow remains 25 percent below its peak of 14,164.53, reached in October 2007. The S&P 500 index, the barometer favored by professional investors, rose 1.95, or 0.2 percent, to 1,140.45. The index is up 68.6 percent in the past year. Including dividends, it's up about 72 percent. It is

still down 27 percent from its high of 1,565.15, also reached in October 2007.

And the Nasdaq composite index rose 8.47, or 0.4 percent, to 2,340.68. The Nasdaq is at an 18-month high but still down by more than half from its peak reached 10 years ago Wednesday. On March 10, 2000, it rose to 5,048.62 at the height of the dot-com bubble. □

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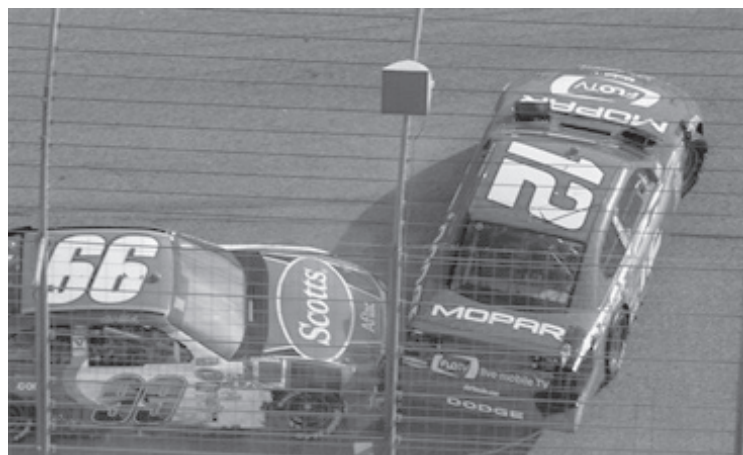
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig says it's too soon to determine whether a blood test for human growth hormone can be used for minor leaguers.

The United Kingdom Anti-Doping authority announced a two-year ban on Feb. 23 for rugby player Terry Newton, saying he had tested positive and was the first athlete suspended for using HGH.

Speaking Monday night before receiving a lifetime achievement award at the annual dinner of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, Selig said Dr. Gary Green, the sport's outside expert, and other medical staff were examining the data. Selig said the scientific experts haven't been able to give him a timeframe for their conclusions. "I want them to come back and tell me what this means, and they already have said they can't do it right now, so there's no sense in me



Baseball commissioner Bud Selig talks with reporters in the press box during a spring training baseball game between the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians Saturday, March 6, 2010, in Goodyear, Ariz.

speculating, because I don't know," Selig said. "They've got a lot of work to do to determine the authenticity of it." Selig can start blood testing on players with minor league contracts at any time. Testing on players on 40-man major league rosters is limited to urine, and rules can't be changed without an agreement with the players' association. Baseball has helped fund the development of a urine test for HGH, but efforts of

Dr. Don Catlin have been unsuccessful.

"We're doing it with the USOC and the National Football League," Selig said. "All of us are spending a great deal of money trying to find a test." Selig wouldn't speculate on whether he would ask the union to accept a blood test for major leaguers. "At this point in time, I just want our people to come back and tell me what it is," he said. "Then I'll go from there." □

Associated Press

Bode Miller decides to skip World Cup finals



Gold medal's winner Bode Miller, of the United States, smiles as he meets the media after winning the gold medal in the Men's super-combined, at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010.

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Bode Miller has decided to end his season, a week before the World Cup finals in Germany. The American skier ended his season early to rest a sore right ankle, and said he hopes to discuss his future with United

States men's coach Sasha Rearick. "At some point, I'll sit down with Sasha and see where we're at and what kind of program we can put together and I'll make a plan from there," Miller said in a statement released Tuesday.

Miller has not competed since the Vancouver Olympics, where he won the super-combined gold medal and earned silver in the super-G and bronze in the downhill.

The 32-year-old Miller was not in the running for any World Cup titles. He missed much of the offseason as he considered retirement and then skipped some races after he injured his ankle in December while playing volleyball with teammates. Miller showed he was rounding into shape in January when he captured the super-combined in Wengen, Switzerland. It was the 32nd World Cup victory of his career. "My goal at the beginning of the season was to get ready for the Olympics and to win races in February," Miller said. "I just focused on that and I did that." □

Associated Press



In this March 7, 2010, file photo, Brad Keselowski (12) is nudged by Carl Edwards, left, causing him to crash during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Kobalt Tools 500 auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Sticking with its "boys, have at it" attitude, NASCAR placed Carl Edwards on probation for three races Tuesday for deliberately wrecking Brad Keselowski's car last weekend in Atlanta.

Associated Press

MOTORSPORT

NASCAR puts Edwards on probation for three races

JENNA FRYER,

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Sticking with its "boys, have at it" attitude, NASCAR placed Carl Edwards on three-race probation Tuesday for his deliberate wreck with Brad Keselowski in last weekend's race at Atlanta. The punishment means Edwards will still be able to race in both the Sprint Cup and Nationwide Series, but will be monitored by NASCAR through the April 10 race at Phoenix. NASCAR president Mike Helton said Edwards' action Sunday at Atlanta was "not acceptable," but did not cross the line in what the sanctioning body will allow this

season. NASCAR vowed in January to give the drivers more leeway in policing themselves and settling their own scores in an effort to re-energize the sport through more emotion.

"We made it very clear to (Edwards) that these actions were not acceptable and did go beyond what we said back in January about putting the driving back in the hands of the drivers," Helton said. "We believe (Edwards) understands our position at this point." There had been a strong call from fans and analysts for NASCAR to suspend Edwards, who returned to the track down 153 laps from an earlier accident with Keselowski intent on wrecking his car. □

Pacquiao could put Cowboys Stadium on boxing's map

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Take the best fighter going and put him in the fanciest new stadium.

There's no telling what kind of bout it will produce.

But having Manny Pacquiao as the headliner for the first fight at the \$1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium sure offers the kind of mystique promoters love.

"I have never had an experience where the venue has played such a paramount role in the promotion," said Bob Arum, who is putting on the fight along with Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. "It's helped us sell the tickets, helped us get the publicity. ... Whatever works."

About 41,000 tickets have been sold for the bout between Pacquiao and Joshua Clottey on Saturday night. A sellout would be around 45,000 — which isn't even half the capacity of this facility, the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

The ring will be on the star logo at the 50-yard line. The world's largest high-definition television screen will loom above, giving people in the worst seats a close-up look at every bead of sweat and drip of blood.

"This is going to be big time," Jones said Tuesday during a conference call with reporters. "I'm going to over-deliver what it means to (fans) to be involved in this stadium. ... That does enhance the competition, help the sport. You're not going to need any incentive to get these fighters to compete."

Having already hosted the NBA All-Star game, and with the Super Bowl coming in February, Jones wants Cowboys Stadium to be a prime destination for boxing, too.

That's why it was so important for him to get Pacquiao for the debut. "You don't want to deal with anything but the top," Jones said. "This says everything to have Manny Pacquiao and this competition. It says everything I want." Kelly Pavlik, Miguel Cotto and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. are among the boxers Arum is bringing in for a ringside view. He expects them to go away eager to become the next headliners here.

Jones, meanwhile, hopes to pack the high-dollar seats with his running buddies — all sorts of current and former Cowboys greats, including former coach Jimmy Johnson.

"It's no accident there are going to be many football players here," Jones said. "There is a crossover of interest. That really excites me. I'm not trying to be presumptuous but we all know how popular the NFL is right now. That raises all boats. That's a big thing to me."

If Cowboys Stadium can land two or three big fights per year, as Jones hopes, that would put him in competition with Las Vegas.

But Jones again invoked the "rising tide" notion, believing that the popularity of fights at his building will generate "more interest and more visibility for fighting."

Arum agrees.

"I love Las Vegas, I live in Las Vegas," he said. "But the tickets are limited by the size of the arena and they generally go to the high-rolling casino



Manny Pacquiao works out in Grapevine, Texas, Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Pacquiao squares off with Joshua Clottey in a welterweight title bout this weekend at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

customers. Here, the sales pitch is about the public. ... You cannot be a major sport if all your big events are in one city where people have to come from all over to attend the event. The Super Bowl wouldn't be as big, in my

opinion, if it had to be held in the same city every year."

As for planning the next fight here, stay tuned.

"We want to get this one over first," Arum said. "Once we get this one over ... we'll sit down and plot the future." □

Bonnet wins second stage of Paris-Nice

LIMOGES, France (AP) — William Bonnet of France won a sprint Tuesday to take the second stage of the Paris-Nice race, and Lars Boom of the Netherlands maintained the overall lead. Bonnet surged ahead in the last few meters to beat Peter Sagan of Slovakia on the finish line. Defending champion Luis Leon Sanchez of Spain finished third and moved up to third overall thanks to time bonuses awarded for his podium finish.

"It's the most beautiful win in my career," said Bonnet, who used to be a support rider for sprinter Thor Hushovd at Credit Agricole before joining the Bbox Bouygues Telecom team last season.

"I have more freedom to play my own cards since I joined Bbox," he said. "I hope it's the first great win but that more will follow."

Four riders were involved in a crash near the end of the 201-kilometer stage between Contres and Limoges after Slovenian sprinter Grega Bole fell just in front of Jimmy Casper of France in the last stretch.

Following his crash in the first stage, two-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador spent the whole day in the pack and remains 25 seconds behind Boom.

Boom, who won Sunday's prologue, leads the overall standings by five seconds ahead of German rider Jens Voigt. Sanchez is 10 seconds back. □

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NHL GMs looking to deal with head injuries



An emergency medical technician and teammates, including Milan Lucic (17) and Michael Ryder (73), look over Boston Bruins' Marc Savard as he is wheeled off the ice in the third period of an NHL hockey game after a hit in Pittsburgh, Sunday, March 7, 2010. The Penguins won 2-1.

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — NHL general managers are trying to find a way to deal with serious head injuries. "I think we all care about the safety of our players, first and foremost," Philadelphia Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said Tuesday. "I think there's been some hits this year that all of us feel

uncomfortable with, so we're trying to do what's right, not only for the players but for the game." For the second straight day, this was the main topic of discussion at the general managers' annual meeting. Dallas Stars GM Joe Nieuwendyk said stiffer penalties must be handed out

to players who repeatedly make hits to the head.

"Clearly, the blindside and the unsuspecting player is what we're targeting," said Nieuwendyk, a three-time Stanley Cup champion. "I don't think we're trying to reinvent the wheel here — we have a great game. But in light of some of the hits — obviously the David Booth one is kind of the alarming one that everyone took notice of — I think it's going to be for the good of the game."

Booth, a left wing for the Florida Panthers, was carted off the ice on a stretcher after an open-ice hit by Flyers captain Mike Richards on Oct. 24. He sustained a concussion and missed 45 games.

"It's a rough sport, but we're just trying to take the necessary

steps to protect our players without taking hitting out of the game," Nieuwendyk said. San Jose Sharks GM Doug Wilson suggested that the consensus favored supplemental discipline as a way of combating the problem. But he cautioned there was still fine-tuning to be done and it was "premature" to provide a definitive course of action that will follow from these meetings, which end Wednesday.

Any recommendations would be forwarded to the competition committee. Then the general managers would vote on any change before the matter goes to the board of governors.

"If you're trying to address something that's a concern to us, it involves both elements to

make it be impactful," Wilson said. "I hope tomorrow we can put something in place to say this is how we're going to play the game; what's acceptable, what's not acceptable."

On other matters, the New York Islanders proposed a series of elimination games among the bottom eight teams in each conference to determine the final playoff seed. Also discussed was giving coaches the ability to challenge plays, having two players select the all-star teams and experimenting with a different point format in the standings.

One potential change that seemed to have support was altering the tiebreaking format to favor teams with the highest number of regulation victories rather than total wins. □

NHL Roundup

Turco's 49 saves lead Stars past Capitals 4-3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marty Turco made 49 saves, and Brad Richards had a goal and an assist as the Dallas Stars scored three times in six shots early in the third period en route to a 4-3 shootout victory over the Washington Capitals on Monday. Washington's Alex Ovechkin snapped a season-high, six-game goal drought by scoring twice to match Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby for the league lead with 44. Ovechkin's second goal came with 3:16 left in the third period and tied the game. But Turco stopped Ovechkin in the opening round of the shootout, and the Stars went on to take it 2-1, with Richards and Loui Eriksson beating Semyon Varlamov. The loss ended Washington's club-record

home winning streak at 13 games.

Kings 6, Blue Jackets 0

At Los Angeles, Michal Handzus and Alexander Frolov scored power-play goals 41 seconds apart during a four-goal first period as Los Angeles routed Columbus. Fredrik Modin also scored with the man advantage against the team that traded him last week,

Frolov also equaled a career high with three assists, and the Kings also got goals from Wayne Simmonds, Drew Doughty and Brad Richardson to match their highest-scoring output of the season.

Jonathan Quick recorded his third shutout and seventh of his career while his teammates outshot Columbus 35-11. □

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Michael Vick 'humbled' by Ed Block Courage Award

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — A humbled but defiant Michael Vick was honored Tuesday night as one of 32 NFL players to receive the Ed Block Courage Award.

Outside the ceremony, dozens of protesters expressed dismay over his nomination.

The award is presented to players who exemplify commitment to the principles of sportsmanship and courage. Each NFL team selects its own recipient.

Vick was selected as the Philadelphia Eagles' representative by a unanimous vote of his teammates. Once a star quarterback with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick was convicted in 2007 for his role in a dogfighting ring and served 18 months in federal prison.

"I'm very humbled to be here," Vick said. "I'm blessed to be voted by my peers, to be here, and this is an opportunity that I will take advantage of and cherish forever."

It was the first award he received since being reinstated by the NFL in September 2009.

"It shows I'm making strides," Vick said. "I'm trying to do the right thing."

There were police cars at every driveway of the parking lot, and security inside the building was heavier than usual at the 32nd annual event.

Many of the protesters outside carried signs, one of which said, "No Award For Dog Killers."

Erin Marcus, of Open The Cages Alliance, said, "I don't think there has been enough time for him to show the proper remorse for what he's done to animals."

Many of the other 2009 Ed Block Award winners rebounded from serious injuries to excel in 2009, such as New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman, Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae and Baltimore Ravens safety Dawan Landry.

Vick, of course, had to bounce back from something entirely different.

"I think I do exemplify what this award stands for," Vick insisted. "I think everybody has the right to their own opinion. But I feel like I've done everything that I said I would do, coming out and moving forward. My peers felt like I was doing the right thing, and that I display courage and sportsmanship and leadership."



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick pauses as he answers questions from reporters before being honored for receiving the Ed Block courage award on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in Baltimore.

Associated Press

I value their opinion."

Vick did more than just show up to collect a piece of hardware. He spent hours Monday and Tuesday speaking to kids at a community center and at the Baltimore Ravens Courage House, which houses abused children.

"It's easy to see, when you spend a couple of days with Michael Vick, why his Philadelphia Eagles teammates picked him as the Courage Award winner. It's been that impressive," Ed Block

spokesman Paul Mittermeier said.

Mittermeier said the Eagles will dedicate a Courage House in Philadelphia next year on behalf of Vick.

Vick was signed as a free agent with Philadelphia during the preseason and played sparingly in 2009 as the backup to Donovan McNabb. The Eagles have exercised their 2010 option on Vick, meaning the quarterback will receive a \$1.5 million roster bonus sometime this week, and the

rest of his \$5.25 million 2010 salary will be paid by either Philadelphia or another NFL franchise.

Off the field, Vick has worked with The Humane Society of the United States, speaking at churches, schools and community groups about the poor judgment he showed in getting involved in dogfighting.

The award, named after longtime Baltimore Colts trainer Ed Block, was first presented in 1978. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Roundup

Mavericks top Timberwolves for 12th straight win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Shawn Marion had a season-high 29 points and 14 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks stretched the league's longest active winning streak to 12 straight games with a 125-112 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday. Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Caron Butler had 23 for Dallas, which has flourished since acquiring Butler and Brendan Haywood from the Washington Wizards at the trade deadline. The Mavericks (44-21) haven't lost since Feb. 16 at Oklahoma City and have climbed into second place in the Western Conference, behind the Los Angeles Lakers (46-18). Al Jefferson had 36 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota in his return from a two-game suspension because of a DWI arrest.

Cavaliers 97, Spurs 95
At Cleveland, Mo Williams made two free throws with 9 seconds left as Cleveland beat



Minnesota Timberwolves' Sasha Pavlovic (11) of Serbia, Corey Brewer (22), Jonny Flynn (10) and head coach Kurt Rambis, right, watch as Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki of Germany takes his free throws in the second half of an NBA basketball game after a flagrant foul was called on Timberwolves' Ryan Hollins Monday, March 8, 2010 in Minneapolis. The Mavericks won 125-112.

San Antonio without LeBron James. Williams finished with 17 points for the Cavs, playing their second straight game without the injured James. The NBA's reigning MVP is nursing a tender right ankle and the Cavs are being extra

Associated Press

cautious. Delonte West had 16 points and made a key steal in the final minute as Cleveland became the first team to reach 50 wins this season. Manu Ginobili scored a season-high 38 points to lead the Spurs, playing their first game without guard Tony Parker. He's out six weeks with a broken hand. Knicks 99, Hawks 98
At New York, the New York Knicks beat Atlanta for the third time this season when video replay showed Al Horford's basket came after the buzzer. Wilson Chandler stopped Josh Smith's drive to the basket with seconds to play and the ball bounced out to Horford in the lane. Referees originally ruled his short jumper good, but replay clearly showed the light was on above the backboard with the ball still in his hands. Danilo Gallinari scored 27 points and David Lee had 19

points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who won for just the third time in 15 games and temporarily avoided a franchise-record ninth straight losing season.

Smith had 25 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Hawks. Joe Johnson scored 22 points and Horford finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Hornets 135, Warriors 131

At New Orleans, Darren Collison had 16 points and a career-high 20 assists as New Orleans snapped a four-game losing streak.

Collison's assists total tied Phoenix's Steve Nash for the most in an NBA game this season.

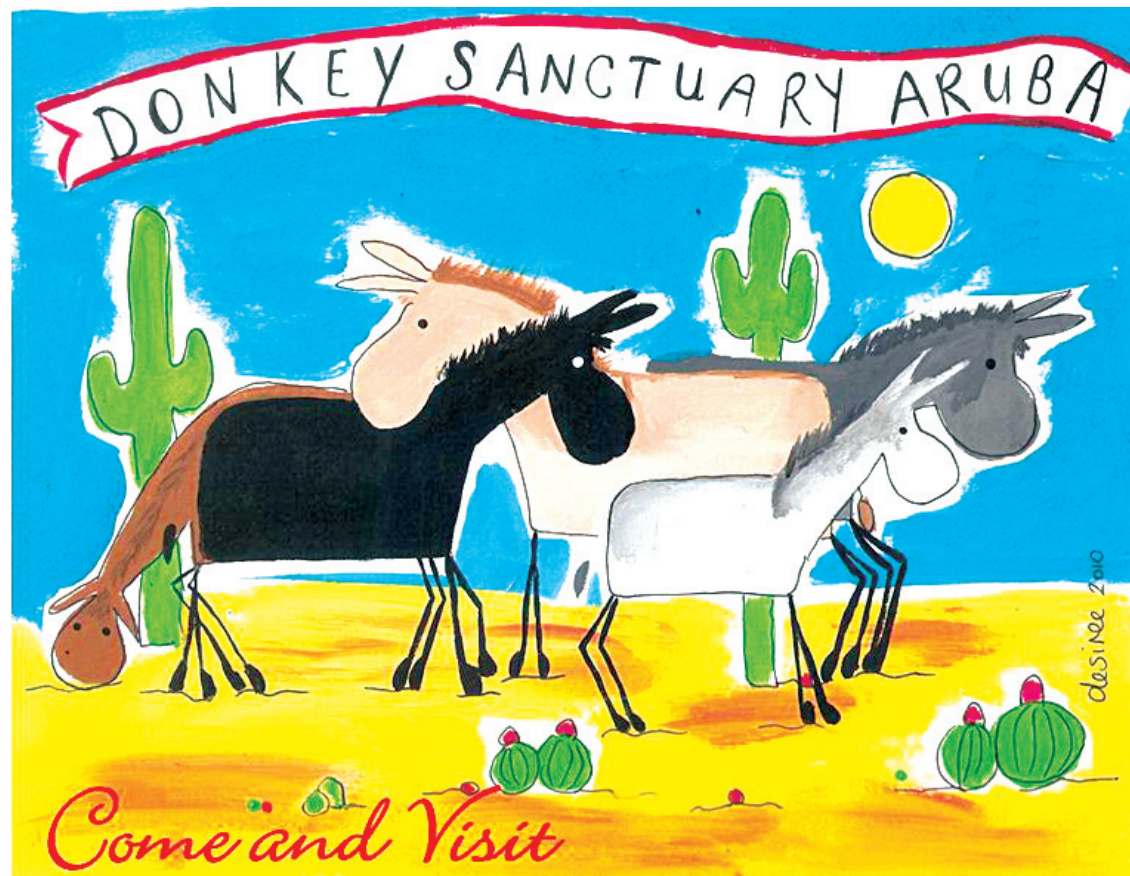
Marcus Thornton and David West each scored 28 points for the Hornets.

Anthony Morrow made all six 3-pointers he attempted and had 28 points for Golden State, which tied a team season high with 13 3s. Reggie Williams also scored 28 points, while C.J. Watson had 12 points but missed a 3-point attempt that could have tied it in the final seconds.

Grizzlies 107, Nets 101

At Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley and Rudy Gay had 21 points each, and Marc Gasol added 19 points and 13 rebounds as Memphis withstood a second-half rally to defeat New Jersey and snap an eight-game home losing streak.

Memphis got help from DeMarre Carroll and Sam Young, who scored 10 points each, ending the Nets' three-game road winning streak. Courtney Lee scored a career-high 30 points to lead New Jersey, while Devin Harris added 28. Reserve Terrence Williams finished with 14, and Brook Lopez scored 10 points. □



Fabulous Events set the tone

Mosaic sets up stunning event for CareerBuilder



PALMBEACH - Four hundred and twenty guests oohed and aahed when they arrived tired and travel weary from the freezing cold USA and they saw the terrific dinner set-up around the pool area of the Westin Resort.

Colored whisks of material lined the backs of the white-clad seats in festive abandon. The centerpieces were just the right mix of tropical sensation and elegance. The half-coconut was what people raved about.

The set-up at the Westin was the start of a four-day extravaganza for the best-selling employees of the firm CareerBuilding.

This is a headhunting firm which brings parties together



in various areas of business and enterprise: medical, financial, social and in construction. As guests drifted down the stairs, the party took off.

Mosaic Fabulous Events outdid itself during these first

days of the month of March: the festive welcome night was light, frivolous and fancy; the second night was called White Night and not for nothing.

Continued on Page B4

At the Westin Resort

Aruba's 11th annual Bridal & Social Events Show is coming



PALM BEACH – The island's largest and most popular wedding and special events show, The Westin Aruba's 11th annual Bridal & Social Events Expo, is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 28th.

The event draws hundreds of locals every year, and promises to be bigger than ever in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom.

The fair attracts top vendors showcasing their products and services that are utilized while planning a wedding, Holy Communion, or any special event.

Bakeries, jewelers, hair salons, travel agents, entertainment providers, and florists are just a few of the vendors that will be exhibiting during the fair.

The fair runs from 11:00am to 5:00pm and is highlighted by 2 time fashion show

of wedding dresses, Holy Communion attire, and a variety of social occasion dresses. Great door prizes will also be awarded.

Westin Resort, Aruba wedding coordinators & Catering team will be on-hand to book wedding & Event packages for the public.

Thus far, the following vendors and sponsors will participate in the Bridal & Social Events Show: Fatum, Palais Hindu Eagle, Elite Productions, H.K. Tailors, Checkpoint

Color, Koolman Flowers & Gifts, Disney Recreation, Tango Tours Aruba Trading Company, Tropical Bottling Co & Brouwerij Nacional Balashi N.V., Super Limousine and VIP transportation, Mosaic Fabulous Event Planners, Creation Aimee, Videography & Photography by George, Cakes by Phillip, Emperatriz Perdomo fotografia profesional, A Touch of Steel, Fashion show done by "Be Beautiful fashion show productions." □



Female Bankers take RBTT Forward



Edna Faro

ORANJESTAD - As professions go, banking is not among those you'd associate readily with female leadership. Indeed the dark-suited gentleman crunching numbers or roaming the banking hall is the quintessential image we retain of the banker. But one local bank is turning that image on its head.

As the world observes International Women's Day 2010, celebrating the achievements of women across the globe, RBTT Financial Group is providing an example right here for the rest of the world to follow.

The Group has a strong tradition of women leadership, dating back to 1998 when it appointed its first female Country Manager - Monica Achan - to lead RBTT Bank St Kitts/Nevis.

At one point, as many as nine of the Bank's 13 country managers were women. Today, there are seven females among the Presidents and Country Heads, leading the RBTT Banks in the following territories: Edna Faro - President & Country Head, Aruba; Harriet Thornhill - President, Eastern Caribbean; Champa Rampersad-Barnes - Country Head, Grenada; Minna Israel - President & Country Head, Jamaica; Corliss Sutton-Charles - Country Head, St. Kitts; Mary Popo - Country Head, St. Lucia; Arvinder Bharath - President & Country Head, Trinidad & Tobago.

Their appointments reflect a general trend within the Group over the years. Women now constitute 70% of the workforce of the RBTT Financial Group, and are represented with increasing frequency across professional, managerial and executive levels.

"It is a reflection of more women having opportunities for professional growth and development and the chance to build successful careers," said Amos Heraï, Head of Human Resources.

While this trend is perhaps more pronounced at RBTT, it is by no means unique.

"We are now observing more women in businesses: not only equipped to taking over family businesses,

but also assuming these positions as natural successors in comparison to 10-15 years ago," observed Edna Faro, Country Head of RBTT Bank, Aruba.

On whether the proverbial "glass ceiling" still exists, she said the possibilities for career growth are real, although a woman may not always be the first choice. She added that women must make full use of the opportunities that arise at the start of their careers.

"Women can break through the glass ceiling by being persistent and taking charge of their careers, and by voicing their commitment and ambition to be in the top positions. It helps, of course, when employers create an environment that embraces diversity."

Commenting on the rise of women into the highest positions in different professions, she said:

"We are lucky that we have a lot of women in prominent positions in politics, the judiciary, in business, the medical profession, the arts, and elsewhere. This sends a positive message to the community that their daughters are able to reach their potential in any field.

The community has given me its support and acceptance, and demonstrated their pride in not only having an Aruban, but moreover, a woman in a leadership position in the banking sector."

Were it not for the fact that RBTT had a tradition of women in leadership well before the June 2008 acquisition by Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), one might have been tempted to say that it was simply taking a cue from its parent company, which has appointed women into one third of all of its executive and senior managerial roles.

Diversity is a shared value of RBC and RBTT and is just one of the many areas in which there is natural fit between the parent and subsidiary.

RBC CEO, Gord Nixon, said: "As we strive to leverage the strengths, talents and differences of our workforce by eliminating barriers and developing people to their full potential, we are intent on advancing more women into senior positions. It's not only the right thing to do, it's good business.

Women comprise more than half of the world's population and our leadership should reflect communities in which we operate."

Providing opportunities to diverse members of the workforce is one thing; the willingness and ability to seize such opportunities is another. A significant number of women place other considerations before career progression, not realizing that a healthy balance between competing responsibilities is possible. In fact, women are uniquely wired to succeed as leaders, according to Arvinder Bharath, President & Country Head, RBTT Bank.

In addition to having integrity, courage, tough mindedness, knowledge and a positive attitude - the key ingredients for exceptional leadership - she said women also draw upon their passion, humour, sensitivity, common sense, reliability and tenacity.

"The ability to juggle several things at once and to think practically in complex situations are strengths that women are born with.

Additionally, women tend to have greater respect for their peers leading to a collaborative and 'nurturing' work environment," she said.

A woman's leadership style tends to be more collaborative than a man's and this is certainly reflected in Bharath's approach. In times of

uncertainty, her focus is on critical analysis of the situation and open dialogue.

"I take the time to understand my options and their consequences. In most cases, this makes decisions more scientific and therefore easier to communicate," she said.

Women continue to be the primary caregivers in our societies, which places an added burden of responsibility on all working women. Success often requires carefully-developed coping strategies for maintaining work/life balance.

For Bharath, the most important step is actually making a decision to achieve work/life balance and committing to it.

"It is not an event, rather a journey that requires ongoing commitment not dissimilar to perhaps staying healthy. Over time, it becomes second nature but if you stop the routine, old habits creep back - particularly in senior leadership positions where daily activities can be all consuming. Though I don't always get it right, I remain disciplined in trying," she said.

Citing European data, which suggest that women refrain from applying for jobs they are not 100% equipped for, while men are comfortable with a 60% fit, she gave this advice to aspiring young female leaders:

"Be brave; work with your strengths and allow room for growth."

She also endorsed maintaining a "constructive spirit of discontent" which would inevitably raise the bar set for oneself as well as those around you. Finally, she implored aspiring leaders to "be accountable for your actions and develop a framework of values and beliefs and revisit them regularly."

Bharath and her fellow female leaders at RBTT have earned their place among the top bankers of the region and are blazing a trail of success for women from all professions to follow. □



Arvinder Bharath

First Self Cleaning Windows Introduced at Divi Aruba



EAGLE BEACH – When its modern new tower was constructed Divi Phoenix introduced the use of an innovative nano-tech product, a chemical treatment for windows which eliminates the need to continuously clean the hard-to-reach glass panels. The environmentally-friendly innovation also presented a considerable economic opportunity which was gladly embraced by Divi Resorts expected to save over one hundred thousand dollars a

year in window cleaning costs, as well as water conservation. Having met complete satisfaction at Divi Phoenix the treatment is now arriving at Windows on Aruba where it will be applied to the glass, eliminating the need of continuous maintenance of the restaurant's panoramic windows.

Alex Nieuwmeyer, Divi Aruba Managing Director is excited about NanoUltra™ which chemically binds to the windows, he explains, so that



with water spray or rain, the window actually cleans itself. NanoUltra™ is manufactured by Nanophase Technologies, a nanotech company in Romeoville, IL, USA. Nanophase sent its Principal Scientist, Dr. Harry Sarkas, to Aruba to train and assist in the product application, at Divi Links. Dr. Sarkas states that NanoUltra™ gives windows a hydrophilic – water loving -- quality so that water sheets down the glass and, in the process, washes away sand, dirt, grime and other contaminants.

“Our product,” Sarkas reiterates, “will retain this self cleaning ability for at least two years.” “During the application process,” he adds, “the product removes most stains, and while it is safe to handle, it doesn't hurt landscaping and it is more efficient than the myriad of acids currently used for traditional window stain removal.”

“We're very pleased,” concludes Nieuwmeyer, “we're blessed by many hard-to-reach windows in our resorts, and we are genuinely looking forward to having to wash these windows every 2 years instead of every few weeks.”

Pictured here, windows treatment at Windows on Aruba Restaurant overlooking Divi Links' picturesque ninth hole. □



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Mosaic sets up stunning event for CareerBuilder



Continued from Page B1

The beach was lined with chairs and tables covered in sparkling white linen and the lounging area shimmered in the setting sun. The centerpieces were flawless, white lilies and elegance and style reigned supreme.

Evening number three was held in the ballrooms of the Westin, where the awards night required a more serious note. The set-up was great once again. However, Fernando Mansur and his Mosaic team floored everyone with the set-up on the Farewell Karaoke Night around the Pool. A burst of neon colors had been used to dress the chairs and tables, as glow-in-the-dark



sticks and other details lit up the night sky. It was a true feat of creativity and daring which delighted the CareerBuilder visitors. The CareerBuilder event was coordinated and organized by De Palm Tours.

Photos show the amazing set-ups of the CareerBuilder event



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Stress in a starring role Illuminating lecture by

Anton Isaak gives relief at De Suikertuin



ORANJESTAD - 'It's not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it', was written on a flip chart in the gorgeous garden of restaurant De Suikertuin last Wednesday evening. The difference between men and women in handling stress was the topic that gifted public speaker Anton Isaak tackled before a mixed, most captive audience. "What most people do not realize," explained Anton, "is that there is a chemical difference in the brain that makes men and women react so differently."

This chemical process was explained with lots of hilarious examples that everyone present could recognize. A ten-point list was read, one for men, one for

women, which listed stress situations and their logical ways of dealing with them. These were significantly different.

"Men can focus on one thing only; they are expert in dealing with that. Women are good at multi-tasking. The combination should be terrific, but often it isn't, as there is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding between the sexes," says Anton.

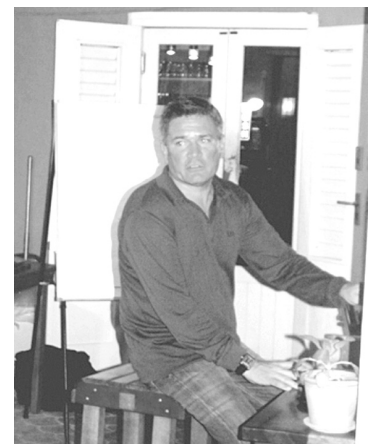
Men deal with stress situations by not talking for a while, working out strenuously or doing some heavy menial job. Women de-stress by talking, gossiping, dancing, enjoying a girls' night out, having an orgasm or taking a long walk. A totally different approach. "It is amazing how much stress this fact will bring to a couple's peace of mind,"



analyses Anton.

The enlightening evening at De Suikertuin will get a follow-up: those who were present are asked to register should they be interested in discussing their changed behavioral patterns after Anton's illuminating talk. For those who missed his lecture: call De Suikertuin to register for another first session in Stress Management Differences Between Men and Women and you will be up to

speed before the follow-up session. □



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HUMAN HINTS

Patterns Of Reaction

Every day, we are relentlessly bombarded by external stimuli. Our reaction to the stimulus defines who we are and what our lives are like. In theory, we can change our lives by changing our reaction to daily stimuli, by changing out attitudes toward our

lives. Its not what happens to us, it's how we react to what happens, that defines who we are.

As we grow, our reactions to different types of input first become automatic, then completely unconscious. As we act and react, we

become comfortable with our patterns. The memory is stored in the cells as specific vibrational patterns, to be accessed by the external stimuli. The things that happen to us throughout the day unlock the cellular memory that brings about specific reactionary behavior.

Unconscious reactions are also stored in the electromagnetic body that surrounds the physical human form. The electromagnetic body is so complex, it will take volumes and years to cover, but in this context, it acts as a filter of experiential knowledge. This means that, like the physical body, the electromagnetic body stores information and patterns that we've taken from our experiences. It contains memory and information about all of our incarnations and three dimensional experiences.

We can know information only in the context of our own life experiences. When someone tells us a story, we must relate it to an event from our own lives, in order to relate to what they are saying. We understand only

what we have experienced.

Both our electromagnetic body and our physical body store information from our past, which enables and encourages us to react unconsciously to our daily lives. While it is difficult to break out of our automatic patterns, it is necessary to shed our outdated attitudes to make room for a new and expanded reality, based on a different fundamental frequency of expression.

The first step to breaking down old paradigms of reaction is to recognize your old patterns. However embarrassed and ashamed you become at your own behavior, you must become aware of the way you act and react in order to release your old patterns of behavior. Let the shame and embarrassment go. We are all Human, and we have all acted in ways we would rather not admit.

Our task now is to forgive ourselves and move on into the next dimension of expression that we know as Love and Unity. The days of Ego and Separation are over. Forgiving yourself and releasing your old

patterns of behavior will make the transition smooth and graceful.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG</div> ALICE IN WONDERLAND </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> NEW daily: 6:00 matinee: 1:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:30 late show: 11:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">  </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG-13</div> THE LOVELY BONES </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 5:30 matinee: </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:30 late show: 11:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">R</div> EDGE OF DARKNESS </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 4:30 matinee: 2:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 7:00 late show: 12:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG</div> ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL" </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 12:55 matinee: 3:15 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> late show: </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG</div> VALENTINE'S DAY </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 6:30 matinee: 12:45 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 9:00 late show: 11:45 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">R</div> THE WOLFMAN </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:15 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:45 late show: 11:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG-13</div> THE FOURTH KIND </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 6:45 late show: 11:45 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>
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AT PASEO HERENCIA

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">R</div> SHUTTTER ISLAND </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 5:30 matinee: 2:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:30 late show: 11:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"> NEW </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG-13</div> DEAR JOHN </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 6:30 late show: 11:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG</div> PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 5:30 matinee: 12:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:15 late show: 11:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG</div> EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 6:00 matinee: 1:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:45 late show: 11:15 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">R</div> FROM PARIS WITH LOVE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:45 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 6:15 late show: 11:00 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">PG-13</div> AVATAR </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> daily: 4:45 matinee: 1:30 </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 8:00 late show: 11:15 </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">  </div> </div>
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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat





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On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Celebrating perfection at the Amazonia Churrascaria

Palm Beach – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodigio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing the fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

It was an instant success and Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just great food. The restaurant gauchos continuously offer choice cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame.

The meat selections are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal salad bar where you can keep sampling until your beg for mercy, all for an inclusive price, excluding dessert and beverages.

On the dessert list the restaurant boasts homemade Crème Brûlée, Flan, Brazilian Cheese Cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake,

Apple Pie, and Papaya Cream. The restaurant features an extensive award winning Wine Spectator wine list, a well stocked bar and a terrific selection of Cuban cigars.

Managed by Hubert Solagnier with over thirty years of international Food & Beverage experience, the restaurant is the 'baby' of local entrepreneurs and investors Rene Kan and Milton Berlinski.

With over 40 frequently-changing salads on the salad bar, 14 types of grilled meats

and a team of waiters who are entertainers as well as carvers and an international staff, Hubert is proud of his fantastic crew, and the tastiest food in town, as well as potent Caipirinhas served in one of the most beautifully decorated dining rooms on the island.



**“Bring this ad with you and receive 15% DISCOUNT
Not valid with other promotions. Beverages and dessert not included.
Offer valid with purchase of full entree.”**



Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like saté to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. “I simply love what



I do for a living,” confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

Security Network of America Group enjoys Tierra del Sol



WEST POINT – A group of 19 golfers from all over the USA, all members of the Security Network of America Group, enjoyed the hospitality of Tierra del Sol Golf Course, this week.

The unique and beautiful resort and country club community is celebrating its 15th anniversary this month. Open in 1995 as Aruba's first master-planned community, visitors staying

at Tierra del Sol enjoy gracious accommodations in condominiums, villa homes, or estate homes, and experience what makes each of those properties personal and delightful including spacious and creatively decorated interiors, spectacular views of the golf course, natural preserves filled with a wide variety of birds and wildlife, and the Caribbean Sea, within the serene country club setting just minutes from everything that Aruba has to offer.

Some guests are tempted never to leave their private retreats, but most do venture out to sample the full array of amenities which are available on property including a top ranking championship 18-hole golf course designed by the renowned Robert Trent Jones II. Golfers and non-golfers alike enjoy light lunch or stunning vistas from the Lookout Bar & Grill, with panoramic views of the ocean, island, and golf course.



Visitors can explore the fine selection of clothing and gift items in the Golf Shop and savor the creations of Aruba's culinary champions at Ventanas del Mar restaurant, while taking in views of the

golf course and the California Lighthouse.

In the past fifteen year Tierra del Sol neighborhoods attracted more than 300 local and overseas families who now own a home at Mesa Vista, Las Campeonas, Miramar, Las Rocas, Las Palmas, Bella Vista, La Colina, or the upcoming, still under construction Anabui Private Residence Club and the fabulous Catalina Estates



Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagaray.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with these fantastic live shows! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin



with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK, Adam Steinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off." MAGIC-GRANDILLUSION - COMEDY



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

Mango: The leading superfruit



By MARIAM ALIREZA

Superfruits contain diverse and dense nutrients. They offer high concentrations and varieties of phytochemicals (polyphenols and carotenoids). Their other outstanding features are that they have gone through multiple scientific researches; have been scrutinized in clinical trials, and have shown to be effective in promoting health and lowering disease risk when included in a diet. Popularity, which also helps earn them their titles of superfruits, comes from their special aromas, delectable tastes, bright and intense colors, attractive appearances, varied textures, diverse use, affordable prices, and market availability.

Here are Gross's top-ranked superfruits:

1. mango
2. fig
3. orange

4. strawberry
5. goji, or wolfberry
6. red grape
7. cranberry
8. kiwi
9. papaya
10. blueberry
11. cherry (sweet and sour)
12. red raspberry
13. seaberry
14. guava
15. blackberry
16. black currant
17. date
18. pomegranate
19. acai (pronounced assai)
20. dried plum (prune)

Today, we shall discuss the superfruit leader, mango, its active properties, its effects on human health and disease, its dense and diverse nutrient and phytochemical contents, and why it is chosen to head the superfruit list.

Mango, *Mangifera indica*, is a tropical fruit that grows abundantly in the Indian

Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Mexico, and Africa. It has become a widely grown, spread, and popular fruit. Though originating in the Indian Subcontinent, it has become available around world and widely cultivated and consumed (over thirty-three million tons of annual output). Mango is imported to our country from India, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan and Africa and is available all year round. The succulent superfruit is found in fifty varieties and in different colors and sizes. Its acclaim comes from its varying exquisite taste, appealing powerful fragrance, inviting deep colors, interesting smooth shapes, and convenient sizes. The plump pulp of the fruit is juicy, usually golden yellow in color, and smooth in texture, but lesser qualities are sometimes fibrous. The mango's green, yellow, or red-tan soft skin is firm, unless it is very ripe. When ripe, its aroma can be tenacious and overwhelming.

Mango became the leading superfruit for the multitude essential nutrients and phytochemicals it contains. Let us take a closer look at them. The fruit's main nutrients are protein, prebiotic and insoluble fibers, vitamins A, Bs, and C, minerals, and omega fats. Its phytochemical content is the potent vitamin A's precursor carotenoids (alpha-and-beta-carotene, violanxanthin, beta-cryptoxanthin, lutein) and polyphenols (quercetin, gallic acid, gallotannins, rhamnetin, cyanidin, xanthone glycosides, and mangiferin in the skin). All the above nutrients and phytochemicals are essential for different biological functions. Apart from being delicious, mango is comprehensively nutritive and filling, and has multiple uses and benefits. Carotenoids and polyphenols are abundant in both peel and pulp pigments. Twenty-five of them were isolated from mango flesh. Both skin and pulp offer a potent phytochemical called mangiferin, which has potent actions on different illnesses. Polysaccharides (long-chain sugar molecules found in plants) are the



prebiotic (soluble) fiber, which improves overall health; boosts the intestinal microflora; and works to prevent cardiovascular disease and diabetes through lowering blood cholesterol and sugar levels.

Since 1930, 750 research papers on mango effects on human health and disease have been published. Cuban and Spanish experts came up with a mixture called Vimang, rich in mangiferin and other phytochemicals from the fruit and tree. The compound showed effectiveness on allergens, inflammatory substances, and pain.

It also enhanced memory and neurological functions in rats. An Indian research found that leaves of the mango tree demonstrated antibiotic action against dental bacteria. In animal experiments, lupeol, a phytochemical in mango, appears to have healing action on inflammation, arthritis, DNA damage, and malaria. The same substance exhibited anticancer activity by suppressing cancer cell propagation in laboratory trials.

Due to mango's widespread availability and high nutritional value, it has become the subject of extensive research and was found to be a good dietary supplement in impoverished and famine stricken countries (West Africa). The superfruit was effective in the relief of undernourished children. It has also become means of fighting starvation and malnutrition, resulting in saving many lives.

The mango fruit is not alone in giving health benefits; the leaves of the mango tree can help treat certain disorders. According to Heinerman's

Encyclopedia of Fruits, Vegetables, and Herbs, natives of the island of Curacao use the infusion of one-day-dried mango leaves to control blood pressure. Pour a liter of boiling water on two shredded mango leaves and leave to steep for one hour. Take two cups of the infusion daily for three days only. Stop for a few days, and then repeat the therapy.

According to Heinerman, the French journal, *Plantes Medicinales et Phytotherapiques*, recommended the use of the infusion of mango leaves to treat blood vessels, which feed the pancreas, as well as diabetes and accompanying vascular and eye retinal diseases. A daily cup of the above-infusion mixed with two teaspoons of mango, guava, or papaya juice improves the condition of diabetic retinopathy and strengthens fragile blood vessels and varicose veins.

Fresh mangoes have an exceptional taste, smooth texture, and an unsurpassed fragrance among all fruits. They make flavorful desserts, shakes, ice-creams, juices, sorbets, and smoothies and give a special flavor and aroma to salads, pickles, barbecues, snacks, sauces, and exotic dishes. Due to their fragrance and digestive enzymes, mangoes are often used as an enhancing ingredient in Indian and Caribbean dishes. The fruit keeps much of its nutritional value whether frozen or dried. One third of a mango makes a helping and gives you nutrients, fiber, and phytochemicals your body needs.

Who said healthy foods cannot be tasty? Enjoy!



A Tale of 2 Cities

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Large cities fascinate me. The complexity for everything to work smoothly is astonishing. My favorite is the removal of waste. In the European dark ages, a period notorious for horrific epidemic disease that spread rapidly, infecting and killing large numbers of people, household waste was just thrown out of the window into the street below. Life expectancy was a mere thirty five years. It wasn't until the end of the first Great War, when indoor plumbing and sanitary waste removal began did our life expectancy soar to today's seventy five years. Most people think it is the "advances" in medicine that have increased our life expectancy; not so, public hygiene has been the real reason.

Traditional Chinese Medicine maintains that our bodies reflect the world around us. Therefore, our bodies are like a city and to be healthy must have their own efficient waste management facility. Your body has seven ways or departments which help remove waste in its facility. Your body's elimination channels include: lungs, liver, blood, colon, skin, kidneys, and lymphatic system. Your lymphatic system removes waste material and excess fluid in the deeper layers of your skin; allowing healthier fluids and nutrients to enter thus promoting the healing and renewal process of your skin.

The word lymph comes from Latin means "clear water" and it is fluid and protein that has been squeezed out of blood plasma. The lymph is drained from tissues in lymph capillaries which are porous. These lymph vessels form a network throughout the body as a one-way flow draining lymph from the tissue and returning it to the blood.

Lymph nodes are the filters of lymph and the lymph structure is found in every part of the body except the central nervous system. Lymphatic tissue also helps control the ability of your body to defend you from bacteria, virus, fungus, and other enemies, which gives you immunity.

There is no muscular pumping organ connected with the lymphatic vessels to force lymph onward like the heart forces blood, still lymph moves slowly and steadily along its vessels. Lymph flows despite the fact that most of the flow is against gravity or "uphill". This is because of the large number of valves that permit fluid flow in one direction only. The movement is due to deep breathing and muscle contractions. Of course, those of you who are "couch potatoes", your lymph is not moving as it should.

Lack of physical activity stagnates lymph in the nodes. Swollen glands, common with many illnesses is an example of lymph nodes enlarging in response to an infection such as virus or bacteria. A cat scratch can produce cat scratch disease

and is one of the common causes of lymph node swelling in children. Swelling begins about 2 to 3 weeks after exposure and may persist for months.

The other most important function of your lymphatic system is to maintain the fluid balance of your body. Blood plasma filters into the spaces between cells or tissues. Much of this fluid is absorbed by tissue cells or reabsorbed by the blood before it flows out of the tissue. A small amount of fluid which is left behind can cause painful edema and destroy tissues. Limbs and breasts are common areas affected by blocked lymph. This problem is avoided by lymphatic vessels that act as "drains" to collect the excess fluid and return it to the blood before it reaches the heart.

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) is a therapy in which a trained practitioner uses gentle rhythmic pumping techniques to move the skin in the direction of the lymph flow. This specialized massage clears lymphatic blockages, eliminates metabolic wastes and toxins from the body, transports nutrients to cells and increases metabolic efficiency, all adding to the reduction of excess fluid and assisting weight reduction. It also has a calming effect on the nervous system relieving stress and tension and on the face; it helps rejuvenate collagen fibers, reducing puffiness and improves the appearance of the skin.

During exercise, lymph flow may increase as much as fifteen times. Unfortunately, not everyone can exercise vigorously. Natural physicians have for thousands of years used cleansing and detoxification herbs such as Milk Thistle for the liver or Horse Chestnut Leaves for the circularity system to support natural organ detoxification and healthy bowel movement. Cleansing of the colon and dry brushing the skin are effective methods we use at Viana Healing Center to rejuvenating your lymphatic system and slow the ageing process. When dry skin brushing, use only a natural bristle body brush. Our energy medicine states that a clogged lymph node, if not drained will develop a cyst in seven years, a tumor in fourteen, and turn cancerous after twenty one years. Women are astounded when their breast swelling and bumps disappear after our lymph detoxification treatment.

Get The Point! Today, more than ever, we are exposed to a vast number of toxins in our homes, workplaces, air, food and water. We are not as physically active, nor does the soft material of our clothes stimulate the movement of lymph. Legs, arms, fingers and toes swollen with fluid indicate a problem with our lymphatic system. This problem is aging us well before our time. While you're cleaning up home, neighborhood or city after the holiday or any other festivities, remember good hygiene begins



with your own body. Come in for a lymphatic cleansing and make yours a tale of health.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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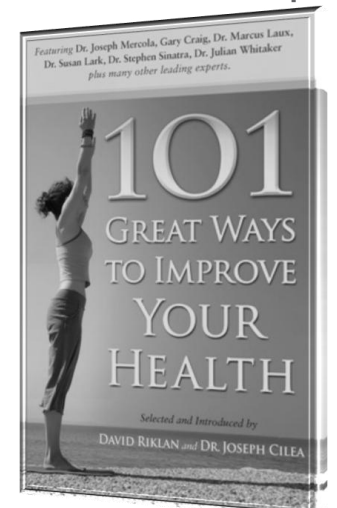
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Oriental Medicine, Clinical Nutrition, Colon Hydro Therapy



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Cancilleres de Paraguay y Colombia ratifican cooperación

ASUNCION (AP) — Los cancilleres de Paraguay y Colombia firmaron el martes una declaración conjunta para fortalecer y dinamizar las relaciones entre ambos países, principalmente en materia de seguridad.

“Sabemos y conocemos la determinación del gobierno paraguayo por mejorar las condiciones de seguridad en el Paraguay y estamos dispuestos a acompañar esos esfuerzos”, dijo a periodistas el canciller colombiano Jaime Bermúdez durante su visita a Paraguay el martes.

El convenio también contempla el apoyo que brindará Colombia a Paraguay en intercambios comerciales, inversiones y turismo.

Luego de su reunión con el



Imagen de archivo del canciller colombiano Jaime Bermúdez, quien dirige a los medios durante una reunión con Ecuador, en Cotacachi. Nov 3 2009. Colombia seguirá cooperando con Paraguay en materia de seguridad pese a una reciente controversia que tuvo como protagonista al ministro paraguayo de Defensa, dijo el martes el canciller colombiano, Jaime Bermúdez. REUTERS/Guillermo Granja/ARCHIVO

brigadier general Rodolfo Palomino López, jefe de la Policía Nacional colombiana, encargado de brindar una conferencia sobre seguridad en el marco de cooperación entre ambas naciones.

Bermúdez visita el país luego de una controversia generada a raíz de la colaboración prestada por Colombia para intentar capturar a los miembros del grupo guerrillero Ejército del Pueblo Paraguayo (EPP).

Días después de que el ministro del Interior, Rafael Filizzola, agradeciera la cooperación de Colombia para combatir secuestros, el ministro de Defensa, Luis Bareiro, negó la contratación de asesores colombianos para este fin.

Sin embargo, el presidente Lugo quien confirmó la colaboración de Colombia en febrero pasado, cuando agradeció al presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, por el asesoramiento de su gobierno para capturar a los miembros del grupo dedicado al secuestro extorsivo. □

canciller Héctor Lacognata, Bermúdez se reunió con el presidente Fernando Lugo en la sede de gobierno y posteriormente con el titular del Senado, Miguel Carrizosa, en el Congreso.

Con Bermúdez llegó el

Perú: reanudan distribución gratuita de píldora

LIMA (AP) — El gobierno dispuso el lunes la reanudación de la distribución gratuita de la píldora del día siguiente, la que había quedado suspendida hace cinco meses debido a un fallo judicial que prohibió su repartición por considerarla abortiva.

El ministro de Salud Oscar Ugarte firmó el lunes la resolución ministerial que dispone la reanudación de la distribución gratuita de la píldora en todos los establecimientos de salud del país, tras haber obtenido la opinión de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) que informó que el método anticonceptivo no es abortivo.

El Tribunal Constitucional (TC) prohibió en octubre que el estado distribuyera gratuitamente la píldora por considerar que no estaba plenamente probado que no tuviera efectos abortivos. Sin embargo, no cuestionó la venta de la píldora.

“El Ministerio de Salud solicitó a la OMS para que informe si hay o no efecto dañino y ha dicho categóricamente que no tiene efecto abortivo, es por eso que nosotros, en base a esa certeza y al marco del acuerdo del TC, retomamos la distribución de la píldora”, sostuvo Ugarte en declaraciones a la emisora Radioprogramas. □

Colombia:

Decomisan 2,2 toneladas de cocaína

BOGOTA (AP) — Las autoridades colombianas informaron el martes sobre la captura de ocho personas y el decomiso de 2,2 toneladas de cocaína, en un operativo que contó con la colaboración de la agencia antidrogas de Estados Unidos (DEA).

El subdirector de la policía antinarcoóticos colombiana, coronel José Ángel Mendoza, informó en entrevista telefónica que la operación se realizó durante el fin de semana y que entre los detenidos se encuentran cuatro hondureños.

Indicó que las detenciones se realizaron tras una labor de inteligencia e interceptaciones de llamadas telefónicas por parte de Bogotá que transfirieron la información a las autoridades de Estados Unidos, Panamá y de Honduras sobre la salida de dos lancha cargadas con la droga.

Una primera lancha rápida que había salido de Colombia fue interceptada en aguas frente a Honduras y en la embarcación los agentes hondureños

y de guardacostas estadounidenses encontraron 1,5 toneladas de cocaína y fueron detenidos cuatro ciudadanos de esa nación centroamericana, aseguró Mendoza.

Una segunda lancha rápida fue interceptada frente a costas del Pacífico de Panamá con 760 kilos de cocaína, mientras sus cuatro tripulantes colombianos fueron capturados, añadió el oficial.

Los detenidos hondureños fueron entregados a las autoridades de su país, mientras los colombianos esperan una decisión de Panamá si los deporta a Bogotá para ser procesados aquí, aseguró el oficial.

Mendoza no precisó los lugares de dónde habían partido las lanchas, pero aseguró que era cocaína dirigida al mercado estadounidense en cargamentos pertenecientes a bandas de traficantes que operan en el departamento de Chocó, en el noroeste del país sobre la costa del Pacífico, y otros grupos en el sector del Atlántico de Colombia. □

Mañana Piñera asume como presidente en un Chile que debe levantarse tras sismo

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El multimillonario de derecha Sebastián Piñera asumirá el jueves como presidente de Chile tras dos décadas de gobiernos de centroizquierda, en un traspaso que pese a lo histórico será austero por el devastador terremoto y posteriores tsunamis que azotaron al país.

El sismo de magnitud 8,8 que sacudió la zona centro-sur del país en la madrugada del 27 de febrero, dejando unos 500 muertos identificados hasta ahora y severos daños materiales, llevó a Piñera a poner a la reconstrucción como la máxima prioridad al inicio de su mandato.

Analistas dicen que el sismo abrirá una oportunidad para que Piñera, de 60 años y el primer mandatario de derecha electo en el país en medio

siglo, pueda lograr consensos que antes parecían esquivos en torno a su proyecto para levantar las ciudades que fueron arrasadas por el cataclismo.

El terremoto sorprendió a Chile justo cuando dejaba atrás su primera recesión en una década contagiado por la crisis global. Ahora, en el corto plazo, la recuperación tendrá una pausa y una reactivación está prevista para la segunda mitad del año.

Las primeras estimaciones privadas y de Piñera apuntan a daños por al menos unos 30.000 millones de dólares debido al terremoto, que devastó a las regiones del Maule y del Bío Bío.

Piñera recibirá la banda presidencial de manos de la popular mandataria saliente, Michelle Bachelet,



Imagen de archivo del presidente electo de Chile, Sebastián Piñera, estrechando manos en Santiago. Feb 19 2010 REUTERS/Victor Ruiz Caballero/ARCHIVO

en una ceremonia en la sede del Congreso en Valparaíso, luego de lo cual almorzará en el balneario de Viña del Mar con una decena de jefes de Estado que confirmaron su asistencia.

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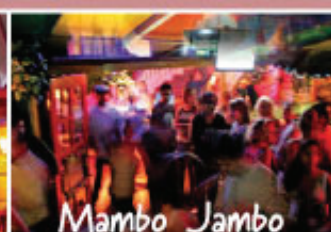
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